

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER W-141-97**

**WHEREAS**, many regions of the State of California have sustained severe rainfall and runoff during the December 26, 1996 - January 3, 1997 storms; and

**WHEREAS**, flooding, property damage, and threats to public safety have occurred in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and other areas of California, causing untold suffering and hardship to the inhabitants of the impacted areas, and untold harm to the overall economies of the affected areas and the State's economy as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, flooding due to levee failure remains a threat to life and property in portions of California, and especially the San Joaquin Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; and

**WHEREAS**, flood levee construction and maintenance remains the responsibility of a number of state, federal, and local agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 3, 1997, I issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency to mitigate the effects of floods and threatened floods, and have to date declared 44 counties to be disaster areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Emergency Services Act confers extraordinary powers on the Governor to respond to emergencies which are beyond the control of any individual city or county and which require a coordinated statewide response; and

**WHEREAS**, it is now necessary for all agencies of the State to undertake coordinated efforts to respond to existing and threatened conditions of disaster and peril to persons or property as a result of the December-January storms and resulting flood hazards, and through such efforts coordinate and assist remedial actions at all levels of governments;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PETE WILSON**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby issue this order to become effective immediately:

1. The Water Policy Council shall establish a Flood Emergency Action Team. The Secretary of Resources Agency shall serve as its chair. The Flood Emergency Action Team shall be in existence until completion of the report specified in item A, and shall consist of the following: Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary of the Trade and Commerce Agency, Director of Finance, Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture, Director of the Office of Planning and Research, Director of the Office of Emergency Services, Director of the Department of Water Resources, Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Director of the California Conservation Corps, Director of the Department of Fish and Game, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, and Director of the Department of Transportation.
2. The Chair shall establish local citizen advisory teams consisting of local citizens, land owners, mayors, county supervisors, and general managers or directors of local water districts, reclamation districts, and other local districts with expertise in flood control and prevention matters in watersheds impacted by the floods.

3. The Team shall complete its work in consultation with relevant federal agencies, including but not limited to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Department of Agriculture.
4. The Team shall complete a report addressing the following issues:
  - a. Assess Central Valley levees and other flood control facilities affected by the recent floods, and develop a plan for the repair and stabilization of damaged facilities.
  - b. Recommend a long-term repair and general maintenance plan, consistent with related state and federal activities including the CALFED Bay-Delta program.
  - c. Evaluate agency responses during the recent floods related to flood control facility operations and repairs, and develop recommendations for improvements to response procedures.
  - d. Develop short-term strategies related to levee and flood control facility maintenance and operation for response to additional storms during the remainder of the 1997 rain season.

A preliminary report shall be submitted to the Governor within 30 days of this Order, and a final report within 120 days.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 10th day of January 1997.

Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

Secretary of State